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Marlan Yoder

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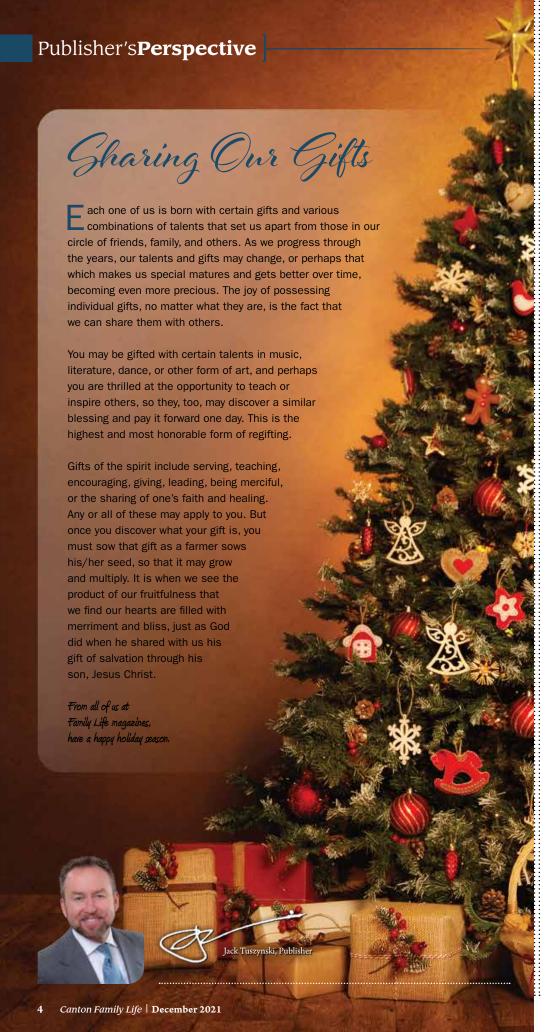
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CANTON *family* life

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Wonderful New Year!

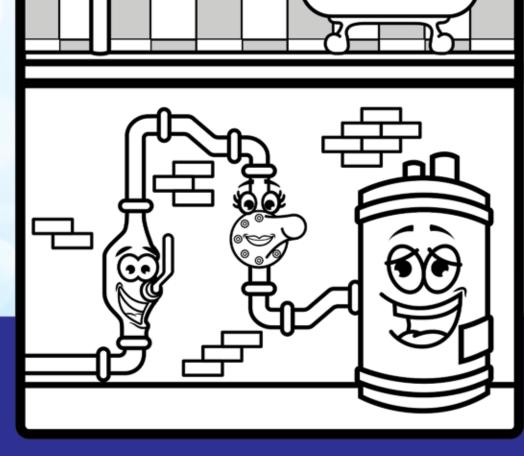
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Calendar

DECEMBER

1-6 Santa's Letters — Do you want your child to receive a special letter from Santa? If so, drop off letters

to Santa at the North Pole mailbox in the Cherokee County Recreation Center by 12/6. Santa will reply to each letter from his North Pole address. Parents, if your child's handwriting is not legible, please leave a special note for Santa's elves. Santa will mail his letters on 12/13. FREE! Monday-Thursday 9:00am-8:00pm, Friday 9:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm. Cherokee County Recreation Center, 7545 Main Street, Building 200, Woodstock. 770-924-7768. PlayCherokee.org

1-13 Santa's Calling — If you'd like Santa and his elves to call your child(ren) this year, please complete a Santa's Calling request form on the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency website. Forms must be mailed, dropped off at the Recreation Center, or emailed by 12/13. FREE! Santa and his elves will make calls from 5:30-7:30pm on 12/15. Cherokee County Recreation Center, 7545 Main

Street, Woodstock. 770-924-7768.

BMBarcomb@cherokeega.com.

PlayCherokee.org

1-15 Hugs in a Blanket Cherokee Recreation

& Parks Agency is accepting new blankets and slipper socks for residents of Cherokee County nursing centers. Donations accepted Monday-Thursday 9:00am-8:00pm, Friday 9:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm, Cherokee County Recreation Center, 7545 Main Street, Building 200, Woodstock. 770-924-7768. BMBarcomb@cherokeega.com. PlayCherokee.org

1-18 Cherokee
Arts Center
Member Holiday Show +
Market — This holiday
season, support local
artists by shopping at
this event filled with
their creations. TuesdayFriday 11:00am-5:00pm
and Saturday 12:00-5:00pm,
Cherokee Arts Center, 94 North Street,
Canton. 770-704-6244. CherokeeArts.org

Holiday Lights at Veterans 1-31 Park — Take a ride in your car through a two-mile light show, featuring two drive-thru tunnels, amazing animated Christmas displays, and over two million lights! Along with favorite features from previous years, the light show will include additional displays and animated trees, an extended drive-thru canopy area, and lighted military branch logos and an American flag to honor those who have served

our nation. Admission is \$20 per car, or \$50 for a season pass. A portion of the proceeds benefits veterans of Cherokee County, Cherokee Recreation & Parks, and other local charities. 6:00pm, Cherokee Veterans Park, 7345 Cumming Highway, Canton. Facebook.com/HolidayLightsAtVeterans

Photos With Santa
Get your photo
taken with Santa in
a calm environment
tailored to individuals
with special needs.

Attendees can enjoy crafts,

snacks, and a movie, as well as receive an emailed digital photo and a Polaroid picture to take home. \$25 per person. 6:00-8:30pm, Cherokee County Recreation Center, 7545 Main Street, Building 200, Woodstock. PlayCherokee.org

ONGOING





"Keep the Wreath Green" — Through 1/1/22, Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services will participate in this campaign to encourage citizens to practice fire prevention. One green bulb on the wreath will be replaced by a red bulb for every structure fire that occurs in Cherokee County during the holiday season. Wreaths will be placed at fire stations, community areas, and holiday light shows.

1 & 8 Holiday Celebration — Make a holiday cookie tray to share and enjoy with family and friends!

\$35 per person. 4:15-5:30pm for ages 5-10 and 6:00-7:15pm for

Building 200, Woodstock. PlayCherokee.org

ages 8-14+, Cherokee County Recreation Center, 7545 Main Street,

Canton Business Club Meeting — Each Wednesday morning, network with a group of professionals who are dedicated to serving the community and their clients, while providing value to local business owners. **8:00am, Reformation Brewery, 225 Reformation Parkway, Suite 500, Canton. Facebook.com/CantonBusinessClub**

2 Holiday Sip and Paint — Create a holiday masterpiece in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. Registration fee \$45 per person. 6:30-8:30pm, Menagerie on Main, 351 W. Main Street, Canton. 404-798-4279. MenagerieOnMain.com

Reinhardt.edu

2-5 Christmas at Reinhardt — Kick off the Christmas season with this festive event. \$30 per person. 7:30pm with an additional 3:00pm option on 12/4, Falany Performing Arts Center, 7300 Reinhardt College Parkway, Waleska. 770-720-9167.

2-23 Holiday Lights of Hope — This year marks the 10th anniversary of this event, which features a huge walkthru Christmas light display with more than two million lights, a light maze, and visits with Santa. Kids 14 and under are FREE. All others are \$10 per person. Proceeds benefit the Anna Crawford Children's Center. 6:00pm, Hobgood Park, 6688 Bells Ferry Road, Woodstock. HolidayLightsOfHope.com

Rink On The River Ice Skating — Ice skating comes to Canton! Enjoy a night on the ice under the Christmas lights with your friends and family. \$10 per person. Visit the website for specific times,

The Mill on Etowah, 225 Reformation

Parkway, Canton. EtowahMill.com/events

Canton Optimist Club Annual Christmas
Parade, Music Fest, and Market Place

Holiday in the Park — Families can enjoy playing in the snow, drinking hot cocoa, shopping for Christmas, and

making crafts. Event also features craft vendors, food trucks,

know what special guests might show up! 10:00am-2:00pm,

Cherokee Veterans Park, 7345 Cumming Highway, Canton.

PlayCherokee.org

bounce houses, and "sleigh" rides on a tractor. You never

Bring the whole family to shop for gifts at the market place, enjoy live music and a virtual Santa, and watch the parade! *Market and live music* 12:00-6:00pm, virtual Santa 3:00-5:00pm, and parade 6:00pm, Cannon Park, 130 E. Main Street, Canton. Sites.Google. com/site/cantonoptimistclub

Woodstock City Church
Enjoy this FREE holiday
musical spectacular,
performed by members
of Woodstock City Church.
5:00-8:00pm, The Mill on
Etowah, 225 Reformation
Parkway, Canton. EtowahMill.com/events

Cherokee Christmas by

Parent's Night Out — Drop off the kids at the pool, so you can enjoy adult time. Kids will swim, enjoy a pizza dinner, do crafts, play games, and end the night with a movie. Tickets \$15 early registration or \$20 late registration. 5:30-10:00pm, Cherokee County Aquatic Center, 1200 Wellstar Way, Canton. 678-880-4760. PlayCherokee.org

3 8th Annual March of the Toys Parade for Toys for Tots



Parade attendees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys

for Tots campaign. Collection boxes will be available at City Park and along the parade route on Main Street. **7:00pm, downtown Ball Ground. MarchOfTheToysParade.com**

19th Annual Run for the Children Reindeer Run 5K and Fun Run — Sponsored by the Service League of Cherokee County, this event raises money to provide necessities for needy children in Cherokee County. The 5K race is an official AJC Peachtree Road Race Qualifying Event. 8:00am, Etowah River Park, 600 Brown Industrial Parkway, Canton. ServiceLeagueRunForTheChildren@gmail.com. ServiceLeague.net

Christmas Parade
Floats, marching
bands, and dance
groups will make
their way down Holly
Springs Parkway.
1:30pm, Holly
Springs Parkway,
Holly Springs.
770-345-5536.
HollySpringsGa.us/

christmasparade

18th Annual Holly Springs

Macrame Workshop — Learn how to tie basic knots and create unique items. You will leave the workshop with two handmade ornaments that you create. Registration is \$40 per person. 11:00am-12:00pm, Menagerie on Main, 351 W. Main Street, Canton. 404-798-4279. MenagerieOnMain.com

[continued on page 8]

LIBRARY EVENTS

SequoyahRegionalLibrary.org

BALL GROUND 435 Old Canton Road, Ball Ground 770-735-2025

HICKORY FLAT

2740 East Cherokee Drive, Canton 770-345-7565

R.T. JONES

116 Brown Industrial Parkway, Canton 770-479-3090

THE POLAR EXPRESS

December 6, 6:00pm, Hickory Flat Come aboard the Polar Express with this exciting reading of the classic story! Receive your ticket and enjoy snacks, songs, and more. Please register by phone or online (CalendarWiz.com/sequoyahreglib).

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 7, 3:00pm, Ball Ground

Enjoy hot chocolate and treats, as you look at library decorations, try holiday-themed games and crafts, and pose at the "Elfie Station," Dress warmly for outdoors.

HOLIDAY CARNIVAL

December 8, 5:00pm, R.T. Jones

It's the most wonderful time of the year to celebrate reading and the holidays! Drop in to play some fun games and eat some sweet treats.

SENIOR CITIZEN WINTER BALL

December 9, 11:00am, Events on Main (145 W. Main Street, Suite 100, Canton) This free event is for ages 55+. Enjoy live holiday music, holiday crafts, and tasty treats.

HARRY POTTER YULE BALL

December 13, 5:30pm, Hickory Flat

Teens are invited to this Harry Potter book-themed ball! Enjoy music, dancing, and light refreshments. Costumes are encouraged. Please register by phone or online (CalendarWiz.com/ sequoyahreglib).

THE POLAR EXPRESS

December 14, 6:00pm, Ball Ground

All aboard the Polar Express! Wear your coziest pajamas and bring a blanket, and the library staff will provide the hot cocoa for the annual reading of this classic holiday book.



continued from page 7

5th Annual "Lights on the Lake" Christmas Boat Parade — Hosted by the Lake Allatoona Association, this year's parade proceeds will benefit the Calvary Children's Home. For details about specific location, participant registration, sponsorship, or to donate, please visit the website. 6:00pm. LakeAllatoonaAssoc.com



4, 12, 18, 22, 23, 31 Parent's Afternoon Out Drop off the kids at

the pool, so you can enjoy adult time. Kids will swim, enjoy a pizza lunch, do crafts, play games, and watch a movie. Tickets \$15 early registration or \$20 late registration.

All dates are 10:30am-3:00pm except 12/12, which is 12:00-4:30pm, Cherokee County Aquatic Center, 1200 Wellstar Way, Canton. 678-880-4760. PlayCherokee.org

Association. Donations are appreciated (\$75 value). Preregistration is required. 9:00am First Aid, 1:30pm Stop the Bleed, Cherokee County Fire Station 23, 7625 Vaughn Road, Canton. 770-406-6657. HFVA.org

Swim With the Grinch The cost is \$10 per child and includes a goody bag, open swim with the Grinch, and pool games. 10:00am-12:00pm, Cherokee Aquatic Center, 1200 Wellstar Way, Canton. 678-880-4760. PlayCherokee.org



A Christmas Carol Enjoy this adapted version of Charles Dickens' classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge as performed by Kudzu Players and Cherokee Theatre Company. Tickets \$20.

Fridays and Saturdays 8:00pm and Sundays 3:00pm, Canton Theatre, 171 East Main Street, Canton. 770-591-0282. CherokeeTheatre.org

Christmas in Canton — You're invited to enjoy activities such as a visit with Santa, The Polar Express movie, train rides, a petting zoo, face painting, a balloon artist, inflatables, and s'mores. The shops will be open extended hours to assist you with your Christmas shopping. 6:00-9:00pm, downtown Canton, 130 E. Main Street, Canton. 770-704-1548. CantonGa.gov. Facebook.com/DowntownCantonGA

Free AHA First Aid and Stop the **Bleed Class** — Learn First Aid skills including how to help someone involved in a traumatic bleeding incident. This fundraiser benefits the Hickory Flat Volunteer

Gallery Sessions: Hunter Blalock w/ Austin Harper — Enjoy a unique listening room experience with local singer-songwriters. Hear their songs and their stories, surrounded by art. Tickets are \$25 per person. 7:00-9:00pm, Menagerie on Main, 351 W. Main Street, Canton. 404-798-4279. MenagerieOnMain.com

& 18 Visit With Santa Bring your camera and have your picture made with the Jolly ol' fella himself. 11:00am-2:00pm, Cannon Park gazebo, 130 E. Main Street, Canton. 770-704-1548.

CantonGa.gov. Facebook.com/ **DowntownCantonGA**



Celebrate Christmas With the Cherokee Chorale — The Cherokee Chorale, conducted by Scott Martin, will perform selections of beautiful Christmas music, traditional and contemporary, to get you in the spirit of the season. Adult tickets \$15, students \$5. 4:00pm, Canton First United Methodist Church, 930 Lower Scott Mill Road, Canton. 770-317-6034. CherokeeChorale.org

17-18 National Wreaths Across America On 12/17, families will

place wreaths on their veterans' gravesites. On 12/18, the remaining 18,000 wreaths will be placed by volunteers to honor those who served our country. A ceremony at the Wall will follow the wreath laying on 12/18. For information on volunteering or sponsoring a wreath, please visit the website. 12/17 9:00am and 12/18 10:00am wreath placement and 12:00pm ceremony, Georgia National Cemetery, 101 Scott Hudgens Drive, Canton. 770-973-1422. Tom@wilder-realty.com.

GlowBand Christmas Show — Delight in music, fun, and plenty of festive sing-alongs provided by this sensational band of charismatic, engaging, and entertaining performers. Enjoy holiday songs from artists such as Mariah Carey, Lady A, Elvis, Whitney Houston, John Mellencamp, and the Eagles. Tickets \$20-\$29.50 per person can be purchased at TheGlowBand.com. 7:00pm,

Cherokee Arts Center, 94 North Street, Canton. 770-704-6244. CherokeeArts.org



GANationalCemetery.org

Elf — Come to the theatre to experience this popular holiday movie on the big screen. Tickets are \$2. Santa will take photos with guests after the movie. Concessions are complimentary, thanks to sponsors at T-Mobile. 7:00pm, Canton Theatre, 171 E. Main Street, Canton. 770-704-0755. CantonGa.gov/cantontheatre

27 & 29 It's a Wibit
Children must be able to pass a 25-yard swim test to play on the Wibit, which is a giant floating playground on water. Children under 14 must have a paid adult on the pool deck supervising them. 2:00-7:00pm, Cherokee County Aquatic Center, 1200 Wellstar Way, Canton. 678-880-4760. PlayCherokee.org

CELEBRATING THIS HOLY **SEASON**

Heritage Fellowship

3615 Reinhardt College Parkway, Canton 770-479-9415

HeritageCanton.com

★ Keyboards at Christmas — 12/4, 2:00pm

Hickory Flat United Methodist Church

4056 East Cherokee Drive, Canton 770-345-5969

HickoryFlat.org

◆ Christmas Musical — 12/12, 2:00pm in the Sanctuary

Hopewell Baptist Church

78 Ridge Road, Canton 770-213-1690

HopewellBaptist.com

- ◆ Christmas Eve Service 12/24, 4:00pm
- ◆ Christmas Service 12/26, 10:00am

Revolution Church Canton

125 Union Hill Trail, Canton 770-345-2737

Revolution.church

◆ Christmas at Revolution Canton — 12/23, 5:00pm and 7:00pm; 12/24, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, and 5:00pm

Rising Hills Church

@Indian Knoll Elementary School 3635 Univeter Road, Canton GoRHC.org

◆ Christmas Eve Service — 12/24, 3:00pm

And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

[Luke 2:10-12]

-Revised Standard Version

Thorn in My Hand

By State Senator Bruce Thompson

absolutely love the fall and winter seasons in Georgia. In late October, people rush to north Georgia to pick apples in Ellijay, "The Apple Capital of Georgia," while others continue even further north to look at the beautiful leaf colors nestled throughout the mountains. As quickly as the beautiful colors appear, winter sweeps in and turns the landscape to a barren state.

We have several rose bushes throughout our property that require periodic trimming by our landscaper. But this year, with Christmas rapidly approaching, I figured I could save a few bucks by trimming the Knock Out roses myself. Everything was on track to finish by supper until I began to clean up the branches and haul them away.

As I picked up the first pile, thorns pierced my gloves, leaving the tips in various locations of my right hand.

Although the splinters were virtually impossible to see with the naked eye, they caused tremendous irritation and were difficult to remove without a magnifying glass and a pair of tweezers. After hours of assistance from another family member, we successfully removed the annoying slivers from my hand.

This time of year can bring tremendous joy to families while serving as a source of debilitating sadness to many others. An unbridled tongue can seem benign at first, but like an unattended thorn, it can become a roaring fire capable of

producing unbelievable pain — especially during the holidays.

Taming the tongue is similar to extracting a thorn; it takes precision and may cause additional pain during the process. We would do good to remember Proverbs 12:18, "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."



Bruce Thompson represents
District 14, which includes Canton
and Woodstock. 404-656-0065.
BruceThompsonGa.com

Cherokee FOCUS



People ~ Partnerships ~ Possibilities



Get in FOCUS by visiting CherokeeFocus.org and supporting one or more Cherokee County initiatives serving our youth and families during this holiday season!



2021 Cherokee Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year

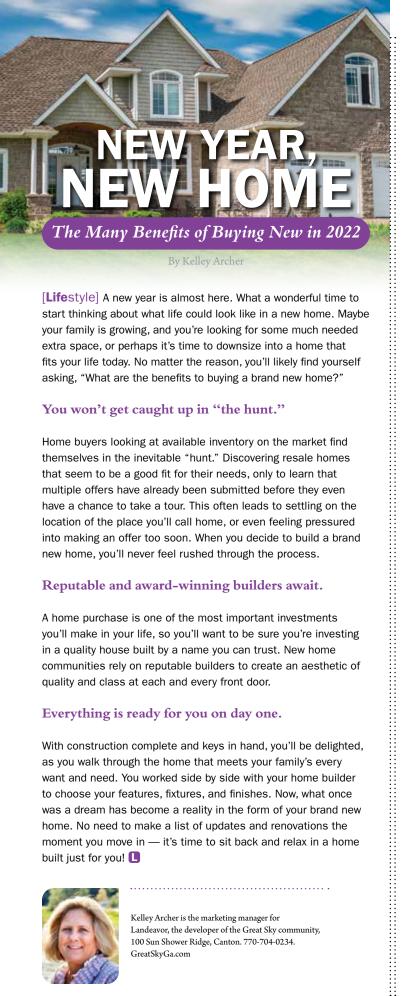
> The Georgia Family Connection Connection Collaborative for Cherokee County

The Atlanta Regional Commission NextGen Youth Services Provider for Cherokee County

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Drug Free Communites Provider for Cherokee County

CherokeeFOCUS.org
Resource Guide





[Lifestyle] A new year is almost here. What a wonderful time to start thinking about what life could look like in a new home. Maybe your family is growing, and you're looking for some much needed extra space, or perhaps it's time to downsize into a home that fits your life today. No matter the reason, you'll likely find yourself asking, "What are the benefits to buying a brand new home?"

You won't get caught up in "the hunt."

Home buyers looking at available inventory on the market find themselves in the inevitable "hunt." Discovering resale homes that seem to be a good fit for their needs, only to learn that multiple offers have already been submitted before they even have a chance to take a tour. This often leads to settling on the location of the place you'll call home, or even feeling pressured into making an offer too soon. When you decide to build a brand new home, you'll never feel rushed through the process.

Reputable and award-winning builders await.

A home purchase is one of the most important investments you'll make in your life, so you'll want to be sure you're investing in a quality house built by a name you can trust. New home communities rely on reputable builders to create an aesthetic of quality and class at each and every front door.

Everything is ready for you on day one.

With construction complete and keys in hand, you'll be delighted, as you walk through the home that meets your family's every want and need. You worked side by side with your home builder to choose your features, fixtures, and finishes. Now, what once was a dream has become a reality in the form of your brand new home. No need to make a list of updates and renovations the moment you move in — it's time to sit back and relax in a home built just for you!



Kelley Archer is the marketing manager for Landeavor, the developer of the Great Sky community, 100 Sun Shower Ridge, Canton. 770-704-0234. GreatSkyGa.com







MUST Ministries Launches Mobile Food Pantry

MUST Ministries is celebrating 50 years of serving those in poverty by launching one of the region's most innovative mobile food pantries to help address food insecurity in metro Atlanta.

The mobile pantry will deliver healthy produce, meats, and other goods directly to areas most affected by poverty including schools, churches, apartment complexes, extended stays, parks, and anywhere that people need the most help. This program will provide fresh food to "food desert neighborhoods" by eliminating transportation issues. It will also free up grocery money that can be spent on other essential items such as shelter, utilities, health care, or other critical bills.

MUST provides nearly 3.5 tons of food a day to those in need in seven counties. Each year, the organization serves more than 45,800 clients with food, housing, health care, workforce development, and clothing.

CCWSA Fall Rivers Alive Clean-Up Success

Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority (CCWSA) hosted three Rivers Alive Clean-Ups: Little River, Ball Ground Creek, and Etowah River. In total, 137 individuals volunteered more than 400 hours to remove approximately two tons of trash, which included tires, car parts, a mattress, and 300 filled bags.

This year's efforts
would not have been
possible without CCWSA's
partnerships with the
cities of Woodstock, Holly



Will England of CCWSA
Environmental Affairs and
Darrell McNeal help clean
Cherokee's waterways.

Springs, Canton, and Ball Ground, as well as Cherokee County Stormwater, Cherokee County School District, Kristin May – Fathom Realty, and the Upper Etowah River Alliance.

2021 Canton Moose Lodge Public Safety Awards

During the Canton Moose Lodge's annual Public Safety Service Awards Banquet, the following public safety employees were honored:

Ball Ground Police DepartmentOfficer Matt Young

Canton Police Department

Uniform Patrol Officer of the Year Courtney Rogers Criminal Investigator of the Year Detective Taina Cruz



Chief Deputy Ball receives his Legion of Merit from Sheriff Frank Reynolds.

Cherokee County Public Safety Departments

Public Service Agency Employee of the Year
Jason Jenkins, Radio Technology Department
Animal Control Officer of the Year – Tyler Ballew
Deputy Marshal/Code Enforcement Officer of the Year
Renee Goggins

Probation Services Employee of the Year – Elisa Stewart 911 Communication Officer of the Year Communications Training Officer Erin Schorr 911 Administration Employee of the Year Accreditation Manager Aaron Schwab

Cherokee County School Police Department
Officer Mike Dames

Cherokee Sheriff's Office

Oak Grove Precinct – Deputy Harley Myers
Uniform Patrol Division – William Garner
Headquarters Operations – Joe Popadics
Adult Detention Center – Sheila Jackson
Traffic Enforcement Unit – Terrance Stallings
Investigator of the Year – Investigator Eric Hackard
Legion of Merit – Chief Deputy Ken Ball

Cherokee County Solicitor General's Office

Victim/Witness Advocate of the Year - Anna Bridges

Georgia State Patrol Post 28 Cpl. C.J. Davenport

Holly Springs Police Department
Officer Brendan Creegan

Woodstock Fire Department

Firefighter of the Year - Matt Davis

Woodstock Police Department

Rookie of the Year – Officer Justin Ismach Supervisor of the Year – Sgt. Gary Cowan Officer of the Year – Cpl. Dennis Hornes Civilian of the Year – Patti Behrend Volunteer of the Year – Billy Doby

Leadership Cherokee Graduates Class of 2021

Leadership Cherokee, a program of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, recently graduated its 32nd anniversary class. The alumni count now totals more than 660 graduates.

Members of the Leadership Cherokee Class of 2021 selected two of their peers to receive special recognition. Thomas Pinyan, of the Cherokee Sheriff's Office, was awarded the Cristal Stancil Leadership Award for being the group's outstanding leader. Frankie Sanders, of Cherokee Recreation & Parks, received the Bob Frongillo "Magic Spark Plug" Award for being the best all-round member and for having a high-spirited attitude.

The nomination period for the Leadership Cherokee Class of 2022 has closed. For information on the Leadership Cherokee Class of 2023, please call 770-345-0400 or visit CherokeeChamber.com.

The Leadership Cherokee Class of 2021 includes first row (L-R): Rachel Geoghagan, Piedmont Mountainside Hospital; Holli White, Northside Hospital Cherokee; Mariela Perez, Georgia Division of Family & Children Services. Second row: Sherry Lowe-Cooke, COACHNWORKS, LLC; Lindsay Bowley, Cherokee County School District; Paige Reid, Limitless Disability Services; Angie King, Killian Automotive; Lisa Grisham, Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services; Alexandra Keene, Cherokee County Clerk of Courts; Frankie Sanders, Cherokee Recreation & Parks. Third row: Jodi Drinkard, WLJA - 101.1 FM/Enjoy Cherokee Magazine; Stacy Sabaka, Goshen Homes; Michael Cicero, Taylor English Duma, LLP; Courtney Putnam, Center for Relational Care; Amanda Rostin, Lead Edge Design Group, Inc.; Rosemary Mburu, Elavon. Fourth row: Bobby DeCoux, Wellstar Health System; Dean Floyd, Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services; Alexander Bryant; Thomas Pinyan, Cherokee Sheriff's Office; Walter Jones, Cherokee Sheriff's Office; Jay Hutchins, Piedmont Mountainside Hospital.



Relevant Reading Support for **Those With Aphasia**



Aphasia Readers was created by husband-and-wife team, Ryan and Anna Teal. Ryan had a massive stroke at the age of 34, which left him with aphasia - a speech and comprehension disorder. Throughout his recovery, the repetition of reading aloud proved to be a tried-and-true form of speech practice.

However, the only books available to practice on a simple level were children's books. Although Ryan and Anna had many good laughs reading about "a trip to grandma's house," they quickly realized a need for basic, short readers with adult-themed content to support those in the aphasia community.

After more than a year in the making and extensive collaboration with top speech clinics and neurological teams, the Teals finally wrote their first book of Aphasia Readers for adults. Their mission is to provide accessible and affordable supplementary speech practice tools for others in the aphasia community to help pave the way for a successful recovery.

Visit AphasiaReaders.com to purchase the book and access free resources.



APHASIA READERS

Features of the Book:

- Practice dialogue alone or with a caregiver
- · Icons above certain words aid in word retrieval
- · Calm, soothing colors for a relaxed practice
- · Spiral-bound structure for easy page turning
- Customizable pages to use outside of practice
- Detailed pictures for writing practice
- Read one session a day or multiple, depending on fatigue level

Shop and explore our free resources at AphasiaReaders.com

info@aphasiareaders.com 404-913-9772 AphasiaReaders.com

A multifaceted tool to help those with aphasia regain their voice.



Community life

Cherokee County Progress Report

★ New Park Pavilions

Hunkey Mauldin Sports Complex, Cherokee Veterans Park, and Patriots Park will each get a new pavilion. Funding for the structure at Hunkey Mauldin Sports Complex comes from a grant from Pilgrims, and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) dollars will pay for the other two pavilions.

The pavilions are expected to be built during a six-month period, beginning with Hunkey Mauldin Sports Complex. The structures will be available for rent for parties and banquets.

★ Former Fire Station To Become New Community Center Once renovations are completed, former Fire Station No. 9 in north Canton will become the Charlie Ferguson Community Center. Ferguson was the original chairman of the North Canton Volunteer Fire Association, which was previously housed in the building.

Owned by the nonprofit Charlie Ferguson Community Center, LLC, the community center will serve the residents of north Canton and the Pea Ridge community. The cost for the work is \$685,215 with a county-controlled contingency of \$100,000. Most of the funding is coming from a Community Development Block Grant.

★ Cherokee Recreation & Parks Selects New Parks Division Director

Stephen Shrout has been selected to lead Cherokee Recreation & Parks as its parks division director. He has served Cherokee County for the past four years as parks crew leader, county arborist, and parks manager.



Shrout holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida, as well as numerous certifications that include Certified Parks and Recreation Professional from the National Recreation and Parks Association, Certified Master Trail Builder from the Professional TrailBuilders Association, and Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture.



Drop-Off Recycling for Canton Residents

City residents can bring glass recycling to the Canton Collection Site at 2525 Ridge Road, from 7:00am-1:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

All colors of glass containers are accepted. Please be sure items are clean, with labels and tops/caps removed if possible. For more information, call 770-720-7674.

TEDx DupreePark

After more than two years of planning, TEDx Dupree Park hosted its first in-person event at the Woodstock Arts Center in downtown Woodstock.

This year's theme, Seeding Greatness, stems from an ancient Greek proverb that states, "Great societies flourish when elders plant trees they know they will never sit under."

The daylong event featured 14 speakers plus entertainers who gathered to discuss how attendees can seed greatness and foster positive change in the world.



BRAVe RIDE

BRAVe Ride Raises Funds for CFVC

The inaugural Bike Riders Against Violence (BRAVe) ride raised more than \$5,000 for the Cherokee Family Violence Center, thanks to tremendous community support. The 2nd annual BRAVe ride is scheduled for October 15, 2022, so mark your calendars now.

Cherokee Swim Champion Represents Team USA in International Competition



Grant Davis of Woodstock was among the elite American teen swimmers to be named to the **USA Swimming** National Junior team, competing at the 2021 FINA Swimming World Cup this fall in Berlin, Germany and Budapest, Hungary.

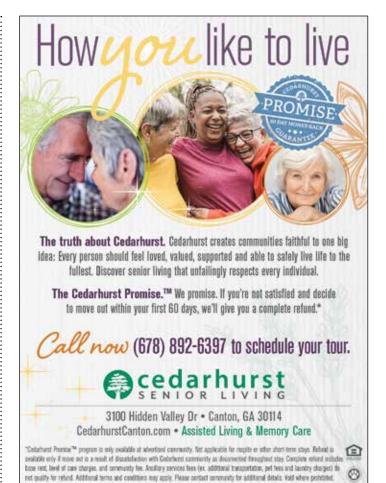


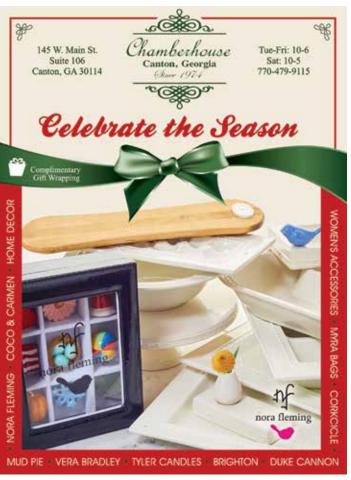
Davis qualified for the World Cup meet by way of being the second fastest 18 and under swimmer in the 800 Freestyle event at the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, this past June. He represented the Woodstock-based Chattahoochee Gold swim club at the Trials.

Before accepting a scholarship to swim and study at Auburn University, Davis was Cherokee County's Swimmer of the Year three times while competing for Sequoyah HS. He was high school state champion in 500 Freestyle his junior year and holds several Cherokee County swim records.

Aside from the Olympics, the FINA World Cup is considered one of the top ranked international swimming competitions. At the meet, Davis had two top 10 finishes: 6th place in 1500 Freestyle in Budapest and 9th place in the same event in Berlin.

"Knowing that I was not only representing all of my coaches, teammates, and family back home but also my country was such a cool feeling, and definitely one I will never forget," said Davis.







Ask a group of children what they want to be when they grow up, and chances are most will name an occupation that involves service to others – perhaps police officer, fire fighter, teacher, medical provider, maybe even a prosecutor. I believe human nature instills a desire in all of us to help people.

This is certainly true within my office, where a team of prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, and support staff all proudly serve this community. Our mission statement is to seek justice, act with integrity, and work with our partner agencies to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the state of Georgia.

Within the Courthouse

When our law enforcement partners make a felony arrest, that's when the criminal judicial process starts for us. Each new case is carefully reviewed, investigated, and prosecuted. We use our training and experience to ensure that dangerous criminals receive just punishment. Our approach is victim-centered, which means we regularly communicate with victims to keep them informed about cases and ask for their input, as the case moves forward.

For certain nonviolent defendants meeting specific requirements, the District Attorney's Office may recommend alternative programs.

For example, defendants with underlying substance abuse or mental health issues may be referred to Drug Accountability Court, Treatment Accountability Court, or Veterans Treatment Court, where they receive intensive court supervision and rehabilitation. By addressing core issues, these programs reduce the likelihood of future criminal acts.

Pretrial diversion, another program for nonviolent offenders, is designed to deter future criminal conduct, minimize loss to victims through payment of restitution, and protect the community by closely monitoring participants.

Whether the defendant is sentenced to prison, probation, or an accountability or pretrial program, you can be assured that we are committed to keeping violent offenders off our streets.

Beyond the Courthouse

Our commitment to public service does not end at the doors to the courthouse. We take part in numerous community organizations and task forces including the Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team; the Cherokee County Child Fatality Review Committee; the Domestic Violence Task Force; and the Suicide Prevention Coalition.

We offer training to law enforcement agencies and other organizations on important topics such as domestic violence, sexual assault, new developments in Georgia law and procedure, and specific topics requested by law enforcement. We participate in educational forums and speaking engagements including teen dating violence presentations for students in Cherokee County Schools. We also engage in community service projects throughout the year. For example, our office recently participated in a Christmas donation drive for seniors and children in our community.

When you have a heart for public service, it does not stop at the end of the workday. We are passionate about the work we do, and we are committed to serving our community both inside and outside of the courthouse.

I'm so glad I chose to dedicate my life to service, and I thank the citizens of Cherokee County for entrusting me to serve as your district attorney.



Shannon Wallace is the district attorney for Cherokee County. 770-479-1488. CherokeeGa.com/ District-Attorneys-Office

The Angelic Announcement



May God bless you and yours this holiday season.



Rev. Norman R. Hunt is the pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, 78 Ridge Road, Canton. 770-213-1690. HopewellBaptist.com

CHEROKEE'S EXPERTS

With a GarageExperts FREE in-home estimate, you will receive a clear and concise 3-D garage improvement plan on the spot, showing how your garage flooring and custom cabinets will look. Best of all, the epoxy flooring and custom cabinets come with a limited lifetime warranty with national support. Call now and take back your garage!

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A Park on the Rebound

By Will Carlar

Solvitur ambulando. It is solved by walking.

We've all been there. Maybe it was a work issue. Maybe it was a family disagreement. Maybe it was when you had an article due for *Canton Family Life*, and you were right up against a deadline. We've all been at that point where we need to put our feet on the ground and go for a walk. Fresh air, sunshine (or, if you are a bit more daring, moonlight), and the earth under our soles help us make sense of the conflicts of the mind and the heart.

What does that mean for city life? Yes, you can walk the sidewalks with cars streaming by. You can even take some solace in the broken patchwork of an asphalt parking lot. Instead, I like to find a park with grass, shade trees, and a place to walk or rest quietly and listen.

Canton residents and visitors have a plethora of riches when it comes to the parks in our city. Miles of trails along the river, acres of grassy greenspace for sports, and an abundance of places for recreation. At Etowah River Park, you can sit and enjoy a game of chess or checkers on dedicated stone tables with painted checkerboards. You can hit tennis balls at Boling Park, and, very soon, you'll have a brand new mini-pitch soccer field at Harmon Park, partially funded through a grant from Atlanta United.

As beautiful as these parks are, two smaller Canton parks are neglected. Most readers don't know about them, and even fewer have ever visited them.

McCanless Park on Muriel Street is home to Boy Scout Troop 241. It has a small playground and two covered pavilions with picnic tables. It serves as the weekly gathering place for scouts to organize, learn various life skills, and develop leadership techniques.

Burge Park is located on Crisler and Burge Streets in the Stumptown neighborhood. A historic Black neighborhood, Stumptown was settled by freedmen after emancipation. Generations of families were born and raised in that community.



The park is named after the Burge family who operated a school for Black children on the site of the basketball court. Founded in the 1960s, the park served as a gathering place for the community. Over the last 20 years, some volunteers, including the Canton Explorers program, tried to freshen up the park. But without city investment, the park has fallen into disarray.

In October of this year, Canton City Council voted to invest time, energy, and money to bring Burge Park up to the same quality as our other parks. A park expansion is planned that will offer updated amenities for the community.

Over and over, studies confirm that access to well-maintained, aesthetically appealing public recreation areas is an effective tool to combat obesity rates and other chronic diseases. By improving Burge Park and continuing to provide recreational amenities to increase the use of all our parks, Canton is promoting healthy lifestyles and enhancing public health.

I challenge you to go out and visit each of our eight unique public parks: Boling, Brown, Burge, Cannon, Etowah River, Harmon, Heritage, and McCanless. Each park is waiting to help you to get moving and find a solution to whatever questions you face.



Will Carlan is a city councilman for Ward 2. 110 Academy Street, Canton. Will.Carlan@cantonga.gov. CantonGa.gov

CCEF's Successful Golf and Tennis Tournaments

By Lisa-Marie Haygood

[AcademicLife] Two events recently took place at the BridgeMill Athletic Club, both of which benefited students and teachers in the Cherokee County School District (CCSD).

The Cherokee County Educational Foundation (CCEF) held its annual Golf Classic, presented by Northside Hospital Cherokee, on a beautiful autumn day. One hundred golfers scrambled in a best ball tournament to help raise funds for Classroom Impact Grants for the CCSD. Golfers enjoyed a graband-go breakfast, boxed lunches delivered on the course from Chick-fil-A, and a Mexican food buffet after they were done playing.

The first-place foursome of Scott Krug, Andrew Morrison, Brent Budde, and Jeff Brown won trophies and selected the following teachers as recipients of their firstplace funds, which totaled \$1,000: CCSD Special Olympics, Jeff Brown of Woodstock HS, Counselor Lori Waycaster of Indian Knoll ES, and Brent Budde of Sequoyah HS.

In addition to the Golf Classic, the Credit Union of Georgia was the presenting sponsor for CCEF's inaugural Tennis Classic, which featured men's and women's doubles teams battling on the courts in three pro sets for a \$1,000 grand prize. Once the finals match was slated, the women's team of Jenny Spain and Phoebe Cohen and the men's team of Mitchel Sumner and Ethan Nguyen decided to split the prize money to benefit two CCSD teachers: Ashley Bates of Carmel ES and Kyle Shugart of Sixes ES. Each received a \$500 Classroom Impact Grant because their doubles team advanced to the finals. A 50/50 raffle was also held on tournament day, and Felisa Hunter won \$1,000, and the other \$1,000 benefited CCEF.

In 2022, these events are scheduled for October 10, which is Columbus Day. So, mark your calendar and come out to enjoy a day on the course or the court to benefit a great cause. 📙



(Front row. L-R) Tennis match winners Jenny Spain and Phoebe Cohen. (Back row L-R) Credit Union of Georgia sponsor representatives - David Hernandez, Sarah Burton, Missy Thorndike, Jason Blakey, Mike Gibson, and Amanda Arnold, and Dr. Brian Hightower, Cherokee County School District superintendent.



Lisa-Marie Haygood is the executive director for the Cherokee County Educational Foundation. 770-704-4213. Cherokee County Educational Foundation.org



Canton Will Soon

Mile

a Little Bit Brighter

Those who visit Kragor Orthodontics can't help but smile a little bit brighter - and we all know the world could use more smiling faces.

Smiles are the foundation for the Kragors' practice and a testament to its patient-centric approach. The practice is well known in the Woodstock community as a haven for those looking to improve their smile in a friendly, comfortable, and clean environment.

The Kragors have grown a large following through simple acts of courtesy and kindness — so much so that they are opening up a second location in Canton. The new location will boast the same cornerstone of care as the current office in Woodstock.

Drs. Ambre and Andy Kragor opened their practice in 2016 with a mission to extend compassionate care and excellent service to patients. Early on, this power couple realized the value of community. Their humble beginnings were supported by the same community members they so proudly

serve today - whom they like to call the Kragor Ortho Family.



Many have asked how two orthodontists ended up married to one another. It is rare to see this combination of professionals together, as they are currently the only husband-and-wife board-certified orthodontics team in Georgia to practice together.



dental school at the University of Michigan, during their orthodontics residency. There, they both graduated at the top of their class while obtaining their Master of Science in Orthodontics. After graduation, the couple moved back to their home state of Georgia, got married, and started their life together.

The Kragor Difference

With patient care at the forefront of their minds, the Kragors set themselves apart in several ways, one of which is their value of time.

> "We feel it's important to respect our patients' time and practice prompt appointment scheduling. Time is one of our most valuable assets," explains Dr. Andy.

> > Their sense of courtesy extends through their dedication to providing real-life interactions.

"When patients call our office, they'll always talk to one of our team members. Our patients have direct access to our team, and that includes both Ambre and me," says Dr. Andy.



It's another personal touch that speaks volumes about their dedication to relationship building and unprecedented support within their practice.

A Clean Experience and Modern Technology

Drs. Ambre and Andy not only want their patients to feel at home in their care, but they also want them to feel good about being in a clean and safe environment. Their practice adheres to CDC and OSHA guidelines for universal precautions of infection control in health care. This prevents the spread of any known virus and, in turn, protects those in close contact.

The Kragors have also raised the bar by providing a pleasant and inviting office environment at both of their locations. The waiting areas are designed as relaxing places to catch one's breath for a few minutes during a busy day.

The doctors use modern, state-of-the-art equipment, which includes digital imaging radiographs and 3D scanners and printers.

"We use secure HIPAA compliant software and communications services," explains Dr. Andy.

A Heart for Service and Community

The Kragor family exhibit their love of community through active support of local schools, charities, churches, and sports teams.

"Andy and I have a passion for our practice and business, but what we do for our community — that's our legacy," Dr. Ambre says.

Previously, Dr. Ambre devoted her kind, compassionate spirit and unmatched expertise to the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and she hopes to continue her work in the near future. Her passion involves treating children, teens, and babies with craniofacial syndromes such as cleft lip or cleft palate. Dr. Andy, known for his charismatic, outgoing nature, also enjoys volunteering his efforts to support the cleft lip and cleft palate community.

Expanding Horizons

As the Kragors get ready to open their second location, they are quick to attribute their growth to their community and are thankful for continued support, as they expand.

"We want our patients to know that we are not corporate, but a family-owned business. This allows us to put our patients first and leave a legacy we're proud of," Dr. Ambre says.

For more information about Kragor Orthodontics, please visit the website or call to schedule a complimentary consultation at either location. Experience #TheKragorDifference on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, or in person.



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Holly Springs Town Center Project Update

you have made your way to Holly Springs via Hickory Road lately, you have seen that construction for the City's Town Center Project is moving quickly! We are confident that we have a great team working on the site and excited to see the Town Center vision begin to come to life in a true city center and community space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Holly Springs City Council and the Downtown Development Authority awarded the Mixed-Use Sitework and Infrastructure Project for Town Center to Cumming-based Vertical Earth and Alpharetta-based Alliance Engineering + Planning. Driving the sitework is an experienced Vertical Earth team with more than two decades of experience in both public and private developments. The sitework and infrastructure project, which is expected to take 15 months to complete, will include clearing, grading, excavation, earthwork, retaining walls, and installation of various utilities and streets.

I'm also happy to announce that Atlanta-based Walton Communities will bring residential flats for lease to Holly Springs

Town Center, offering walkable

access to restaurants, shops, green

spaces, and events. Walton plans to construct 250 one-, two-, and three-bedroom flats with a focus on modern floor plans, incredible amenities, and durable, sustainable construction, using the highest quality materials. The flats are just one of a range of residential options, both for lease and for sale, planned for the site. Based

on current planning, Walton expects to begin construction at Holly Springs Town Center in the summer of 2022. At the heart of the Holly Springs Town Center will be a new City Hall, envisioned as a 16,000 square foot, three-story brick and stone

> architecture, honoring the rich history of the community itself. Rolled out in front of it is the inviting Market Plaza and Grand Lawn, which will be perfect for festivals, markets, and community events like the City's annual Easter

> > Egg Hunt, Autumn Fest, and Christmas Parade. At the other end of the Grand Lawn will sit a new outdoor amphitheater. On either side of the amphitheater, visitors will find more than 30,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space. Public spaces will be served with ample parking including a dedicated parking deck.

To see more on the vision for Holly Springs Town Center and follow the latest updates, visit HollySpringsTownCenter.com or connect with @HollySpringsTownCenter on Instagram and Facebook or @HollySpringsTC on Twitter.



Steven W. Miller is the mayor of Holly Springs, 3237 Holly Springs Parkway, Holly Springs. 770-345-5536. HollySpringsGa.us





[HomeLife] The fiberglass-asphalt shingle is the most popular residential roofing product in North America. Here are some tips for Georgia homeowners who are ready to begin a shingle roof replacement project.

Hire a Trusted Contractor

Find a contractor with a great reputation and consumer-based awards/manufacturer certifications that prove that he/she is willing to go the extra mile for you.

Select a Superior Quality Shingle

GAF Materials Corporation's popular Timberline Series is America's No. 1 shingle. It is one of many from the basic and trusty three-tab shingles to Specialty and Designer Series shingles. This shingle is great because of its balanced benefits for your home. Please discuss the different types of shingles available with your roofing contractor to learn which may be the best fit for your budget and style. There are multiple colors available in each series.

Consider the Benefits of Energy Savings

Architectural shingles have a deep-cut shape to provide a threedimensional look across your roof. Given Georgia's hot summers and temperate winters, you may wish to consider energy saving options for your new roof. These options save energy by using light colors to reflect heat away from your home. These shingles have earned Energy Star certification.

The Roofing System Is More Than the Shingles

From starter course all the way up your roof to flashing and ridge vents, a roof replacement gives you a complete, high-quality roof. Each element in the roof system helps protect your home, control energy consumption, and prevent water damage. A conscientious contractor will never slap down a new shingle over an old roof without first checking the integrity of every layer:

Sheathing - The plywood or oriented strand board (OSB) that forms the foundation for the system.

Underlayment - The roll material that provides basic water resistance.

Ice and Water Shield - A strip (three feet along) at the perimeter edge of your roof (eaves and rakes), providing a water and ice barrier for proper protection in these vulnerable areas.



Juan Reves is the owner of Pro Roofing & Siding. 2558 Canton Road, Marietta, 770-373-7064. MyProRoofing.com





678-880-6357 | SoutherniteInteriors.com



oston ES teacher Brenna Lloyd transformed her teaching last school year to serve Cherokee County School District (CCSD) digital learner students. The 19-year teacher, already renowned for her mastery of blended learning, took it to the next level to support students learning at home.

"I made sure that my digital classroom felt just like a face-to-face classroom," said Lloyd, her school's 2020-21 Teacher of the Year and one of only four CCSD Teacher of the Year finalists. "Students no longer have the constraints of the four walls of the school building. When this barrier is no longer there, the world has become the oyster of the classroom."

Class adventures included a virtual field trip to interview Tennessee Elephant Sanctuary caretakers and analyze the pros and cons of animal captivity. Students "met" National Weather Service meteorologists and NASA scientists through video conferences on weather and space. They "adopted" a cow named Pumpkin from a local farm and learned about ecosystems.

"Making learning real and relevant is part of the way that education transcends the classroom," Lloyd said. "Helping students make connections between the worlds that they are going between is the art of teaching."

This school year, Lloyd is teaching weekly writing lab classes. She continues to connect lessons to the real world and to forge strong relationships with students.

Her value for building relationships traces back to childhood. Lloyd could not read in third grade, but her teacher — with kindness, patience, and tutoring — helped her succeed.

"It seems like yesterday that the young girl looked up at this teacher, as she was saying, 'You will be reading this year.' For the first time in forever, the belief engulfed me that I would be able to read that year," Lloyd said. "Mrs. Jones never made anyone feel ignorant or a problem. She made you feel that there was no other place that she would rather be than right in that place helping you. From that day, that young girl, now an educator, wanted to give children what Mrs. Jones had given her — hope!"

Lloyd strives to ensure her students feel as loved and empowered to succeed and, in turn, will follow the call "to be a Mrs. Jones in this world."

What can parents do to help their children be as successful as possible at school?

"Parents should see themselves in partnership with the teacher and school. Learning cannot stop when a child leaves the doors of the school building. Engaging students in conversations beyond 'How was your day' will help them transfer the knowledge they have gained in the classroom to the real world. I also suggest parents allow their children to see how what is being taught in the school can be used in everyday life. Finally, pay close attention to the suggestions given by the teacher and ask questions. Ways of teaching concepts have likely changed since the parent was in school — teachers want to help!"



Barbara P. Jacoby is the chief communications officer for the Cherokee County School District. 770-704-4228. CherokeeK12.net

e Importance of a Yearly Eye Exam

appy Eyes Optometrist Dr. Rafael Gamba, OD, likes to end his exams by reminding patients that he recommends yearly eye exams because our vision accounts for 70% of our sensory information, meaning that our eyes are the main way we interact with the world. Being diligent about protecting our eyes can lead to an overall

in the lime light

During a yearly eye exam, Dr. Gamba works hard to ensure that patients are treated for any condition that could affect their vision.

better quality of life. The best way to protect

our vision is by receiving a yearly eye exam.

He starts by doing an in-depth exam to check the eyes for diseases. Physicians at Happy Eyes use state of the art equipment that aids in detecting changes to the eye including dangerous ones. Finding diseases early is critical because early treatment can save your vision. Dr. Gamba has met many patients who went years between appointments and suffered vision loss that could have been prevented if treated early. It is his mission to preserve vision, and getting a yearly checkup allows him and the rest of the Happy Eyes staff to treat problems early and prevent vision loss.

After discussing your eye health, Dr. Gamba will work on improving your vision with a digital eye exam. We rely on our vision day and night, and especially when traveling and working. This means that small changes can have a big impact in our lives. An updated prescription can prevent eye strain at work that is often associated with headaches and migraines, and it can improve your

vision while driving at night and in the rain. An updated prescription also allows us to appreciate the small details that life has to offer. It is Dr. Gamba's goal to improve your vision and comfort, so you can see your very best.

For more information, or to schedule your yearly eye exam, please call or text 770-874-2020.



112 Riverstone Parkway, Suite A **Canton, GA 30114** 770-874-2020 · HappyEyes2020.com



Winter Survival Guide

Five Essential Hair Care Tips

By Jyl Craven

[Lifestyle] Have you noticed that signs in nature – like extra-bushy squirrel tails – are all pointing to a long, cold winter this year? When a harsh winter strikes, Jack Frost not only nips at your nose, he also nips at your luscious locks. Your hair care routine should vary with the seasons. Here are five tips for keeping your tresses healthy and vibrant until spring rolls around again:

1. Wash your hair less often.

While nothing feels better than a nice steamy shower after a cold day, too-thorough hair washing can eliminate the natural oils that protect your strands from the cold. Regulate this delicate balance in the wintertime by washing hair less often, perhaps every other day.

2. Use a moisturizing conditioner.

Depending on your exposure to the elements, you may find that your hair still needs conditioning daily, even with less washing. If so, be sure to use a conditioner with extra moisturizing power.

3. Schedule a monthly deep conditioning treatment.

Winter is the time of year when deep conditioning treatments are imperative for almost everyone. Remember to make an appointment with your stylist for a monthly treatment, and you'll really notice the difference come springtime. A conditioning treatment with concentrated amounts of protein, lipids, and glucose will provide maximum benefits for someone with dry hair.

4. Tell mom she was right, and wrong.

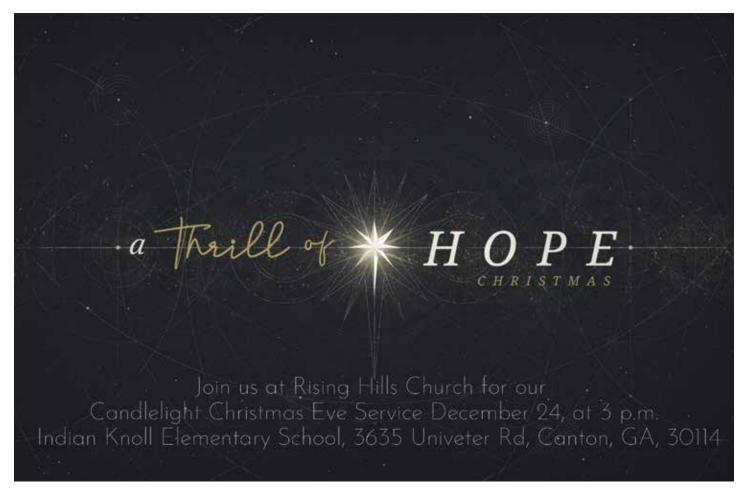
Sure, you don't really catch a cold from going outside with a wet head (colds come from germs!), but you can catch something even longer lasting than the rhinovirus: broken hair and split ends. Be sure to dry your hair completely before going outside, even if that means waking up earlier or washing your hair the night before.

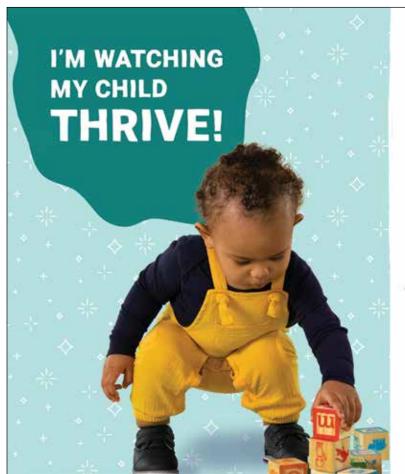
5. Go shopping.

Speaking of damaging your hair, even mild exposure to the elements can leave your locks limp. Invest in a winter hat or scarf (natural fibers are best) to alleviate some of the damage. One more thing: never use a hat as an excuse to leave the house with a wet head. A hat on wet hair can damage your tresses even more.



Jyl Craven is owner of Jyl Craven Hair Design of Canton. 770-345-9411. JylCraven.com





Thanks to my child's patient, nurturing teachers, he has the confidence to make friends, try new things and explore the world around him. Welcome to the Goddard Family.

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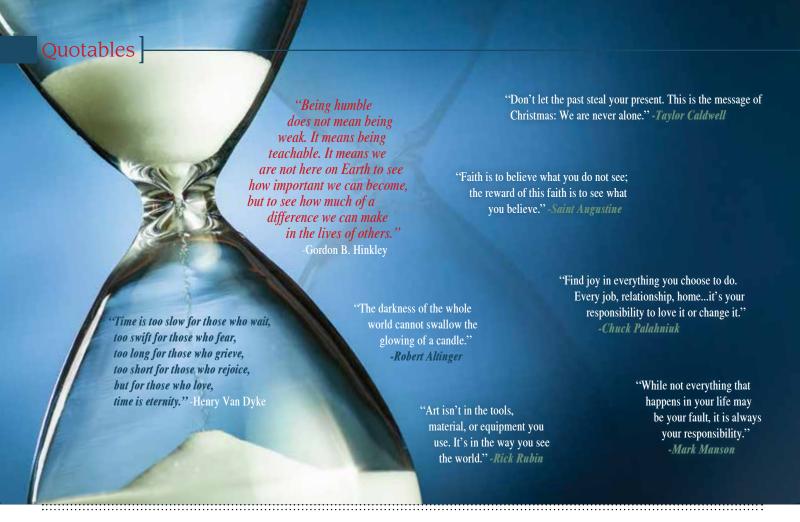
CANTON (HICKORY FLAT)

770-720-1311 · GoddardSchool.com

Infant through Pre-K









Soil Testing

Get a Jump on the Growing Season

By Joshua Fuder

[HomeLife] Well, 2020 was a banner year for soil testing in Cherokee County. We ran significantly more soil (and water) tests than any other previous year. This is great news, as soil testing is a valuable tool to ensure success in your lawn and garden. It provides a quick and accurate determination of the pH (acidity) and the level of several plant essential nutrients like phosphorous, potassium, calcium, and magnesium.

Soil test results will help guide your decisions on plant selection, soil preparation, and fertilization. These decisions have a huge impact on whether your plants and lawn thrive or become victim to insect attacks and fungal or bacterial diseases.

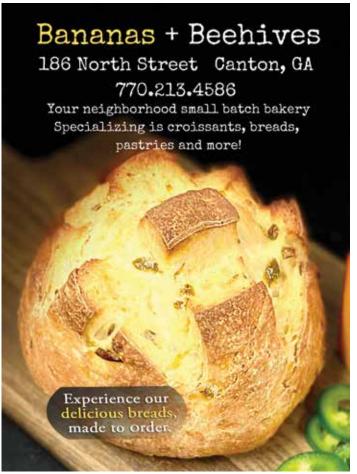
Soils in Cherokee County tend to be on the acidic side. Optimum range for most plants and turf is in the 6.0-6.5 range. The pH scale is not a linear scale but a logarithmic one. A soil with a pH of 4.0 is 10 times more acidic than a soil with a pH of 5.0 and is 100 times more acidic than a soil with a pH of 6.0. The pH level affects the availability of nutrients in the soil as well as those applied as fertilizer. Correcting pH imbalances is the first step in nutrient management for your lawn or garden.

A soil test result is only as good as the sample collected. It is best to do separate samples for lawns, ornamental or shrub areas, and vegetable gardens, as the soils will often be different, and the plants will have different requirements. Start with a clean bucket and trowel and take plugs or slices from the surface to a depth of 4 inches for turf and 6-8 inches in vegetable and flower areas. It's best to take a random sampling across the area with at least 8-10 different samples. The mixture of these samples will be tested and should provide you with a good average for your area.

Contact the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service in Cherokee County to find out more about soil testing.







Mew Year's Traditions FROM AROUND THE WORLD

By Ellen Samsell Salas

Ringing in the new year is the final hurrah to the holiday season. It's an evening of crazy hats, noisemakers, colorful confetti, exploding fireworks, the sipping of champagne, the kissing of sweethearts at midnight, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," as we reflect on the past year.

In other parts of the world, furniture and frozen lakes, clothes and confections, parades and potatoes all play roles in New Year's traditions. Whether the custom involves sleeping on mistletoe (as folks do in Ireland) or gathering in cemeteries (as people do in Chile), the desired outcome is universal: Send the past year's trials and tribulations on their way and welcome good health, happiness, and prosperity.

Getting the Home Frant Ready

Prepping one's home for the new year is important in many cultures. In Latin American countries, cleaning the house is believed to drive away the past year's bad spirits.

- Mexicans throw water out of windows and open the front door to hasten the departure of the old.
- The Irish clean not only their homes but also their cars and gardens, and they throw bread to chase away evil.

 For emphasis, they might beat loaves of bread on the walls.
- Not content to simply clean,
 Italians and South Africans
 fling all manner of items
 from clothes to furniture
 to appliances out their
 windows to drive away evil spirits.

Doors, porches, and entranceways also appear in New Year's rituals.

- In Scotland, the Hogmanay tradition holds that luck will flourish if the "first footer" is a handsome, dark-haired man bearing gifts of coal, salt, shortbread, a black bun, and at least a dram of whiskey, while entering to the accompaniment of bagpipes and drums.
- In Denmark, smashing plates on neighbors' doorsteps is believed to bring good luck. The more broken plates littering one's doorstep, the better!

Sweet, Salty, and Savory Treats

Other celebrations involve sweet, salty, and savory food items to bring peace or luck into the new year.

- The Greeks hang onions on their front doors.
- The Turkish sprinkle salt on their doorsteps.
- The Swiss welcome dollops of whipped cream falling on the floor.
- Puerto Ricans sprinkle sugar outside of the home.

Champagne isn't the only thing that people ingest to ring in the new year.

- In Brazil and other Latin American countries, eating seven seeds of a pomegranate, the fruit of Persephone the Greek goddess of springtime and fertility, is believed to bring renewal.
- In Spain, Mexico, and the Philippines, eating 12 grapes or any other round fruit at the stroke of midnight is thought to bring luck.
- January 1, the culminating evening of Kwanzaa, combines both feasting and the exchange of home-crafted gifts in a celebration of family and friends.

While those of us who live in the southern
U.S. might enjoy a hearty bowl of blackeyed peas and collard greens to bring
luck and wealth in the new year, New
Year's treats in the Netherlands and
Germany include sweet "krapfen"
(filled doughnuts), or their cousin,
deep-fried dough. Armenians hasten
the coming of good fortune by making
special bread and "kneading" luck into





Perhaps the oddest food tradition hails from Peru and Colombia where, at midnight, blindfolded revelers take turns choosing from three potatoes: one peeled, one partially peeled, and one with its skin. Partially peeled forecasts a normal year, fully peeled means a year without money, and with skin

Czechoslovakians prefer to predict their futures by cutting open apples and reading the "stars" formed by the seed pods in the cores.

equates to a year of prosperity.



Things Might Get Wet

Not surprisingly, water (a universal symbol of birth and rebirth) is part of many New Year's traditions.

- Russians brave frigid temperatures by getting into wetsuits, diving into frozen lakes, and "planting" trees beneath the icy surfaces.
- Canadians take cold plunges in the English Bay.
- Brazilians throw white flowers into the ocean to seek the blessings of the sea spirits.

This year, revelers especially anxious to say good riddance to the hardships of 2021 and to welcome a healthier and more peacefilled 2022 might embrace not only tried and true traditions, but also some of these zany practices of other cultures. And if you're longing to travel but you spent all your money on holiday giff-giving, follow the lead of Colombians and grab some empty suitcases, jog around the block, and hope that travel and good fortune will be in your new year.

Samuel Sa

31 Years of Educating Our Community

By Poncho Wilson

hen her cherished winged companion suddenly dropped his tawny tail feathers, Monteen McCord knew their "31 years around the sun together" would soon collide with twilight.

Ten days later, Sam the great horned owl died as solemnly as he lived.

"Thirty-one years around the sun with mama was quite the ride," McCord, 66, of Canton, shared September 15 with her home-based raptor sanctuary Hawk Talk Inc.'s Facebook audience, voicing her post as her deceased house cat.

"Let us go flying now...finally free to explore the universe," the post continued.

McCord acquired Sam when he was a chick, she said, after a local family saved him from the jaws of their dog when his nest fell.

After his first surrogate human family surrendered him to a veterinarian with whom



Monteen McCord sitting at one of Hawk Talk's educational displays.

McCord had previously worked, Sam grew to become McCord's marquee touring bird, despite her nonprofit's hawk-inspired title.

In the years ahead, Sam was most at home road-tripping with McCord in her roomy SUV as her first raptor ambassador.

"And you should have seen the people who'd see us in traffic," she fondly recalled. "We were quite the pair."

Sam was as visually striking as behaviorally docile, McCord added, making him a perfect fit to reach impressionable children as well as folklore-leery adults.

His feathered tuft headdress was uniquely characteristic to his Bubo virginianus species.

Parallel to owls' imperiled habitats, raptor "rehabbers," as they're colloquially known, like McCord, belong to a shrinking community of hobbyist licensees who meet strict criteria under the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Migratory Birds & Habitat Program.

"Federal migratory bird protections are as broad as stringent," McCord said, "and anyone found guilty of harming or possessing native birds or their parts can face serious legal trouble."

"Rehab educators like McCord provide invaluable service to this species-preserving practice," said Melanie Edwards Furr, Georgia Audubon's director of education.

Furr also lends her expertise to Atlanta Wildlife Animal Rescue Effort, mending great horned owls.

"McCord's singlehanded care for Sam for so long was a remarkable endeavor," Furr said, "as great horned owls typically survive 12 years in the wild."

While it's unclear how long the oldest-living great horned owl has survived in captivity, San Francisco Zoo cared for King Richard until her death in 2012 at around age 50, said zoo director of communications Nancy Chan.

Still mourning Sam's passing, but with a head of red hair as fiery as her spirit, McCord remains determined to continue educating others about the benefits and behaviors of raptors on her *Hawk Talk* website and social media channels.

She's also hosting admission-access tours for adults at her large Union Hill Road forested enclosures where she houses a barred owl, screech owl, red-tailed hawk, tawny owl, and a large Eurasian eagle owl.

"We could use the mouse money and friendly company," McCord joked. "It takes a lot of mice to keep these guys and gals happy and alive."

For more information, please visit HawkTalk.org or Facebook.com/HawkTalk.org.

Book Review BY JESSICA ORAVEC

The ATTIC on **QUEEN STREET**

he Attic on Queen Street, by Karen White, is the seventh and final book in her Tradd Street series, which first began back in 2008 when readers were introduced to Melanie, a real estate agent who could see, hear, and feel ghosts, and who did her best to ignore them. In The Attic on Queen Street, Melanie has a full house: twin toddlers, a teenage stepdaughter, an estranged husband (Jack) staying in the guest room, and a film crew that keeps discovering what happens when ghosts are not happy that you are in their home.

As Melanie and Jack do their best to keep their nemesis, Marc Longo, from stealing their home out from under them, they must also dig deep and remember who they are and why they married in the first place. Melanie is also helping her friend, Veronica, discover the truth about her sister's murder and why she seems to be haunting their house.



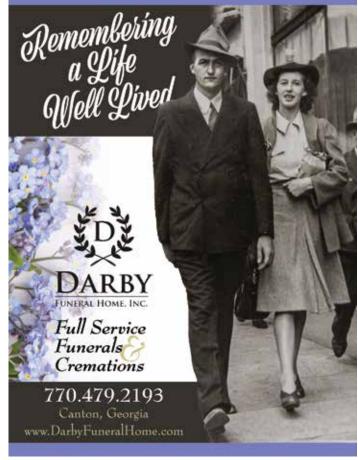
At its heart, the Tradd Street series is about accepting who you are, your flaws and your gifts, and using those gifts to help others. It is about opening your heart and learning that life is better when it is shared with others.

Fans of ghost stories and historical fiction will enjoy this book series. Readers will see how the past affects the present, and White is very adept at weaving the two together. The Attic on Queen Street is a wonderful addition to the Tradd Street series. Thankfully, this isn't the last time we will see these characters, as a new spin-off series is coming!

While you could read The Attic on Queen Street first or as a stand-alone book, it is best to start at the beginning with The House on Tradd Street. You will better appreciate the growth of the characters and how their actions shape them along the way.



Jessica Oravec lives in Cherokee County and is an avid reader and a children's minister. She holds a B.B.A. from Mercer and a Master of Divinity in Christian education from McAfee School of Theology.





Changing Lives Through Math

Artist Profile MARLAN YODER BY ELLEN SAMSELL SALAS

Bringing God's Grace Through Art

aised a Mennonite, Woodstock resident Marlan Yoder struggled to reconcile his faith with his desire to be an artist. Ultimately, he listened to "the small, quiet voice of God, saying 'Do this'" and embraced his calling while remaining committed to his faith and family.

"I'm first of all a child of God," said Yoder. "Then I'm a husband to my wife, Cheryl, then a father to my four sons - then an artist."

Even as a child, Yoder was attracted to drawing and painting, an intuition enhanced when he first experienced Monet's ability to capture a moment and make it seem alive. Once he began painting in high school, he never stopped, though he did take detours.

A career in advertising, including ownership of his own ad agency and later Yoder Gallery, connected him to art while also supporting

> his family. In 2011, he turned to painting full time.

Yoder doesn't set out to convey a specific message, nor does he have a blueprint for each painting. Rather, he listens for God's guidance.

"When I'm beginning the next project, I say 'God, I'm ready when you are.' My wife refers to it as 'the download,'" said Yoder, adding that ideas can come from anywhere seeing graffiti on a train car, listening to a Van Morrison song, or sitting on his deck at night.

Self-taught, Yoder is best known for his Tree of Life paintings, though he didn't choose the tree as his signature image.

"After the fourth one in 2009, I thought I was done painting them, but they just kept coming," he said.

The Tree of Life paintings are recognizable for their central subject, the tree, which is a metaphor for God and his sustaining grace and strength. In the paintings, Yoder blends elements of impressionist, surrealist, and abstract styles. Most often done in acrylic on large canvasses, they "have a presence," which is enhanced by richly hued color and the sparkling movement created

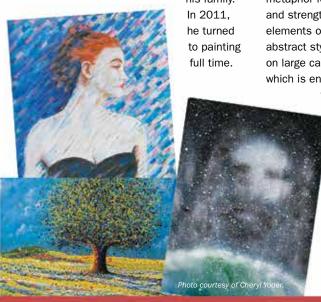
by Yoder's pointillist style.

"I've been told they make people feel at peace, that they bring joy. Some make people feel closer to God," Yoder said. "It's not about me. It's to glorify and honor God. That's the ultimate. He made me do this. When I know a painting is almost done, I get

excited. I hold my palette and my brush up to God and thank him. I know it is going to speak to people."

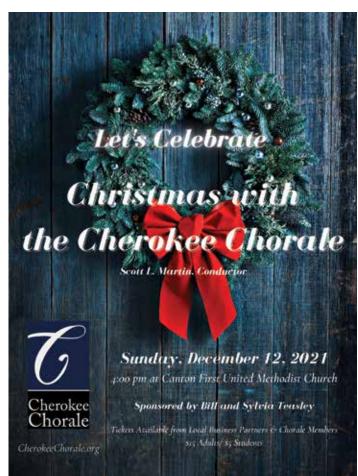
At 67, Yoder is doing his best work and still putting faith and family first. He leads an art group at His Hands Church and enjoys "the simple life" with his wife, as well as gardening and being with their sons. He's also writing his third novel.

"I'll stay true to what I do and follow the process God has given me. I just need to stay out of my own way." Yoder said. "There's always a painting on my easel. If not, I'm a miserable human being."



You can see Yoder's work at MarlanYoderArt.com, Facebook.com/MarlanYoder, and at Instagram.com/marlanyoder.







Christmas Memories

By Tim Morris

[Lifestyle] At this time of year, I always look forward to writing this article about past Christmases because it reminds me of many joyful childhood memories during these stressful adult times. But I also realize the last two Christmases have been tough for many families because of the pandemic, so this article is for those we have lost.

My Aunt Demps recently died of COVID-19, and she was the family member I favored most in many ways. My caring heart, thoughtfulness, and laid-back personality are all like hers. My mom and Aunt Demps had nine children between the two of them. So, Christmas was always a big deal when our families got together.

Normally, Mom would take my brothers and me to Demps' house, and we'd spend hours playing with her kids and the new toys we got for Christmas. Aunt Demps lived in a small home with my Uncle "Bear" and their five children, but we played outside in their huge yard. When it was time to eat Christmas dinner, we had to find a spot close to the wood stove to stay warm. Aunt Demps always found time to spend with each one of us, which made us feel so loved. I will always have a special place in my heart for her, and the memories we shared.

Each year, with help from the community, Senior Services provides gifts to all the seniors in our program through the Adopt-A-Senior initiative. Even during the pandemic, the community has been very

supportive by donating gifts. In fact, in these past couple of years, we received so many donations that we were able to pass on the Christmas cheer to additional seniors in Cherokee as well as a few we know in other areas.

Seeing a smile on the faces of our elderly during the holiday season will certainly warm your heart. If you would like to take part in Adopt-A-Senior, please contact Senior Services.



Tim Morris is the director of Cherokee County Senior Services. 1001 Univeter Road, Canton. 770-479-7438. CherokeeGa.com/Senior-Services





Nine Tips for Traveling With Your Preschooler

By Mary Kay Buquoi, Ed.S.

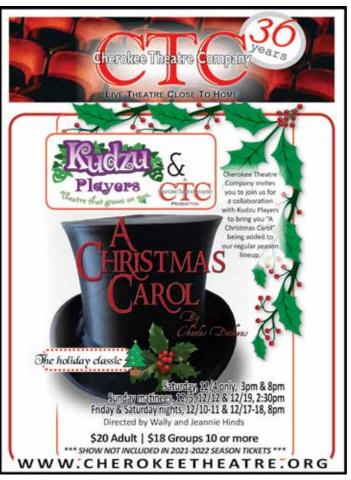
[AcademicLife] Traveling can be stressful, but traveling with young children can be downright challenging. If you're planning to hit the road this holiday season, keep these handy travel tips in mind.

- Take breaks. If you're driving, try to make regular rest stops, so your child can get some exercise, use the bathroom, or have a snack.
- 2. Stock up. Bring a stash of toys, snacks, coloring books, crayons, and other goodies to keep your little one from getting bored or hungry during the trip.
- Tire 'em out. If you're flying, have your child walk around the terminal with you before you board your flight. If you're driving, try to leave the house before dawn, so your child will sleep during some or all of the ride.
- Surprise them with treats. While good behavior doesn't automatically warrant a reward, a piece of candy or a wrapped toy can certainly encourage pleasant behavior.
- Engage them. When children are actively involved, they are less likely to misbehave. Talk to your child about what you'll be doing on the trip or play a game like 20 Questions or I Spy.
- Take a bus, subway, train, or boat. Children love the novelty of public transportation, so if it's available on the way to your destination, try to use it.
- Keep tabs on your children electronically. Purchase an electronic child locator to make sure you can find your child if you're separated from each other.
- Check the weather. Make sure you pack clothing and supplies for any weather conditions you might encounter.
- Sanitize. Traveling means encountering more germs than usual, especially if you're flying to your destination. Be sure to pack plenty of antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer to disinfect your little ones' hands and frequently touched surfaces.



Mary Kay Buquoi is owner of The Goddard School, 140 Foster Road, Woodstock. 770-720-1311. GoddardSchools.com





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Seeking Nominees for First Citizen of Cherokee County Award and Teen Leadership Cherokee Class of 2022

The First Citizen of Cherokee County Award is bestowed upon a person who has resided in the county for a minimum of five years and has shown significant meritorious service to his or her community through family, civic, and/or religious involvement. Applications must be submitted by 12:00pm on December 6, 2021.

Teen Leadership Cherokee students must be in 10th grade and attend school and/or live in Cherokee County to apply. The 20 students who are selected must demonstrate outstanding qualities as existing or potential leaders and possess the desire to effect change in their community. Academic achievements and responsibilities will be reviewed during the selection process. Applications are due by 11:59pm on December 9, 2021.

Applications are available at the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, 3605 Marietta Highway, Canton, or online at Cherokee Chamber.com. For further details, please call 770-345-0400.



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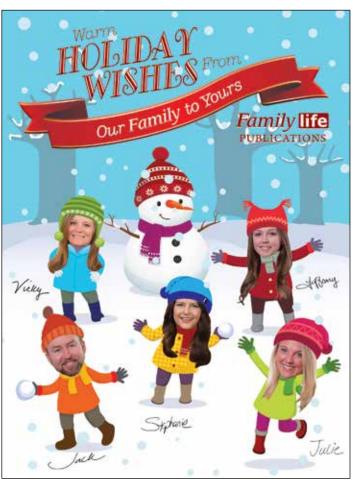
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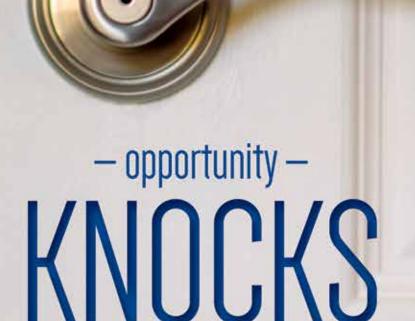


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